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REPORT OF THE ARTS COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1920

To the Honorable,
THE COMMON COUNCIL,
City of Detroit, Michigan.
Gentlemen:

So hopefully does the public look for the accomplishment of the new Art Center that their judgment of the Arts Commission and of the Detroit Institute of Arts is based on the inactivity on the new museum site, and we are glad to report that the year just closed has brought us much nearer to the achievement of our new building.

Following the appropriation of your Honorable Body at the beginning of the year of \$250,000, with which to begin work on the new building, your Arts Commission has worked conscientiously with the consulting architect in the development of plans for a new building which will adequately complement the beautiful new library. There have been some unavoidable delays

which deterred us from breaking ground last fall as had been planned. The earlier sketches had to be modified because they did not come within the appropriation limits which we had set. Only this week we received the complete preliminary plans for consideration, which with some modifications in the working drawings, will, we hope, form the design of the new building. With the present improved building conditions, your Arts Commission hopes to break ground on the new site within the next few months with the appropriation now available for the purpose. In the current budget we are asking for an additional sum sufficient, we hope, to carry our building project to July 1, 1922.

While the year just closed seems fraught with no brilliant achievement, the Detroit Institute of Arts has made steady progress and healthy growth. The collections

have been augmented by gifts, loans and purchases. The regular routine of the year has brought a number of exceptional exhibitions. The educational work has been carried on in as satisfactory a manner as our limited staff could take care of it, and during the first complete year of municipal operation, we have

succeeded in a commensurate degree in impressing upon the public that the Detroit Institute of Arts is an institution which, with all its collections and resources, belongs to them.

With the \$50,000 at its disposal for purchases for collections, the Commission has acquired many important objects of art as follows:

PURCHASES FOR THE COLLECTIONS

Oil painting, "*Portrait of Henry David Erskine, XII Earl of Buchan*," by Sir Henry Raeburn.

Oil Painting, "*Still Life—Fish*," by William M. Chase.

Oil painting by Alfred Sisley.

Oil painting by Eugene Boudin.

Oil painting by F. Auguste Renoir.

Oil painting by Claude Monet.

Oil painting by Henri Moret.

Oil painting by Lucien Simon.

Water color painting by Lucien Simon.

Oil painting by Charles Cotet.

Oil painting by René Menard.

Oil painting by Henri Martin.

Oil painting by Camille Pissaro.

Oil painting by Le Basque.

Oil painting, "*The Green Jar*," by Roman Kryzanowsky.

Two water color paintings by Charles H. Woodbury, entitled "*Mount Pelee*" and "*Young Porpoise*."

Six water color paintings entitled "*Bacchanal*," "*The Durgan*," "*Barracuda Leap*," "*The Glassy-eyed Snapper*," "*Fijian Dance, No. 1*" and "*Fijian Dance, No. 2*," by Stephen Haweis.

Etching, "*St. Maclou, Rouen*" by Hedley Fitton.

Etching, "*The Old Hammersmith*," by Frank Brangwyn.

Etching, "*Beauvais*," by D. Y. Cameron.

Etching, "*Prayer Maiden*," by W. Lee Hankey.

Etching, "*St. Etienne du Mont, Paris*," by Hedley Fitton.

Set of six wood blocks and eleven successive printings from them, with original water color sketch, "*The Ridge Road*," by Gustave Baumann.

Three colored wood block prints by Gustave Baumann, entitled "*Provincetown*," "*Spring Blossoms*" and "*Spring Freshet*."

Two colored wood block prints by Bror J. O. Nordfeldt, entitled "*At the Piano*" and "*Clam Diggers*."

Colored wood block print, "*Garden Flowers*," by Edna Boies Hopkins.

Colored wood block print, "*The Violet Jug*," by Blanche Lazzell.

Colored wood block print, "*Little Joe*," by Juliette T. Nichols.

Colored wood block print, "*Landing Boats*," by Maud Squire.

Colored wood block print, "*Thirsty Little Brother*," by Eliza T. Gardiner.

Colored wood block print, "*The Blue Chair*," by Flora Schoenfeld.

Colored wood block print, "*Flowers*," by Elizabeth Shuff Taylor.

Two bronzes, entitled "*Dachshund*," by Antoine Louis Barye.

Bronze, "*Camel*," by Antoine Louis Barye.

Four Greco-Roman terra cotta vases, III Century B. C.

Sixteen pieces of old European silver, including one tray, three tankards, two beakers, four sugar shakers and six corkscrews.

Seven old English watches.

Ivory cigarette box.

Piece of Flemish bobbin lace, XVIII Century.

GIFTS

Gifts have been received as follows:

Oil painting, "*A Child with an Orange*," by Gari Melchers, presented by the Detroit Museum of Art Founders Society.

Oil painting, "*Portrait of Robert Barr*," by James McNeill Whistler, presented by the Witenagemote Club.

Water color painting, "*Venice*," by F. Hopkinson Smith, presented by Mrs. G. D. Pope.

Persian Rug presented by Mrs. Charles W. Baird.

Tapestry, "*The Great Crusade*," designed by Albert Herter and executed by Jean Baptiste Boule at the Herter Looms; bronze group, "*Cats*," by Hunt Diederich; bronze fountain sketch, "*Running Boys*," by Hunt Diederich; silver and enamel box, and silver and enamel hand mirror, by Eda Lord Dixon; illuminated manuscript, "*The Lord's Prayer*," by a Sister in the Convent (Episcopal) St. Johns, Ralston, N. J.; silver vase by Arthur J. Stone; seven pieces of Robineau porcelain; wrought iron grille by Samuel Yellin; silver and gold baptismal font designed by Messrs. Cram and Ferguson and executed by James T. Woolley, Elizabeth Copeland and I. Kirchmayer; silver and enamel box by Louis C. Tiffany; enamel plaque by E. F. Caldwell, all presented by Mr. George G. Booth.

Oil painting, "*Entrance of the Ballet*," by Maurice Sterne, presented by Mr. Ralph H. Booth.

Bronze, "*Motherhood*," by Bessie Potter Vonnoh, presented by Mr. Ralph H. Booth.

Etching, "*The Last of H. M. S. Britannia*," by Frank Brangwyn, presented by Mr. Ralph H. Booth.

Three etchings, "*Rheims Cathedral, Facade*," "*Rheims Cathedral, South Transept*" and "*Rheims Cathedral, A. D. 1210-1917*," by Louis Orr, presented by the artist through the American Red Cross.

Twenty lithographs by Charles Huard, presented by Miss Mary Turner.

Two etchings, "*Town Hall at Cologne*" and "*Heidelberg Castle*," by Bernhard Mannfeld, presented by Mr. Arthur E. Kiefer.

Marble sculptures, "*The Fair Angler*" and "*Ariadne*," presented by Mrs. Oren Scotten.

Bronze ornament, presented by Mrs. Oren Scotten.

Mexican costume, presented by Mrs. Oren Scotten.

Two Spanish tiles, presented by Mr. Albert Kahn.

Collection of Belgian war relics, presented by Mrs. Florence Y. Shaver.

Piece of Burano point lace, presented by Miss Mary Turner.

Piece of Chantilly lace, presented by Mrs. Clarence A. Lightner.

Piece of Spanish Blonde lace, presented by Mrs. Arthur McGraw.

Piece of Brussels point and bobbin lace, presented by Mrs. Hal. C. Wyman.

Lace pillow and three pieces of Maltese lace, presented by Mr. John Ferrugia.

LOANS

Loans have been received as follows:

Three tapestries, "*The Passion and Triumph of the Redeemer*," "*The Triumph of David*," and "*The Burning of the Numidian Camp*," loaned by P. W. French and Company of New York.

Oil painting, "*Landscape*," by Emil Carlsen, loaned by Mr. Ralph H. Booth.

Oil painting, "*Portrait of George Meade*," by Gilbert Stuart, loaned by Mr. Richard W. Meade.

Three pieces of Clement Massier pottery, loaned by Mr. Ralph H. Booth.

Persian Shawl, XVIII Century, loaned by Mrs. Thomas Forman.

Caucasian Rug, early XIX Century, loaned by Mrs. Charles W. Baird.
 Silver tankard, XVIII Century, sugar tongs, four silver spoons,
 reduced copy in bronze of "*The Fighting Gladiator*," loaned by Mrs. George
 Whitney Moore.

Pair of Japanese screens by Kano Sauroku, loaned by Mr. Frederick
 S. Isham.

Pair of Delft vases, loaned by Mrs. Seville Paulus.

Chinese vase, Yung Ching; Korean vase; Chinese jade carving of a
 camel; bronze Buddha, Indian, loaned by Miss Florence O. Avery.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Special Exhibitions have been held as follows:

DATE	EXHIBITION	NO. OF EXHIBITS
January 1-February 15	Paintings by Stephen Haweis.....	77
January 15-March 1	Exhibition by American Painters, Sculp- tors and Gravers.....	156
January 15-February 1	War Sculptures by Mrs. Harry Paine Whitney.....	..
February 1-February 28	Works by Albert Wenzell.....	38
March 1-March 31	Paintings by Alfred Williams.....	79
March 7-April 10	Paintings, Drawings and Etchings by Charles H. Woodbury.....	49
April 1-April 14	Paintings by Mabel Key.....	23
April 20-May 30	Sixth Annual Exhibition of Paintings by American Artists.....	169
September 1-September 15	Greek Government Exhibition.....	..
October 1-October 31	Marine Paintings by William Ritschel ..	31
October 1-October 31	"The Magic of Print" by Denman Fink
November 1-November 30	Paintings by Martha Walter.....	26
November 1-November 30	Paintings, Tapestries, and Chinese Porce- lains, loaned by M. Knoedler & Company, P. W. French & Company and Parish- Watson of New York.....	100
December 1-December 31	Annual Exhibition by Michigan Artists..	143
December 1-December 31	Etchings by Lester G. Hornby.....	79
December 1-December 31	Wood Carvings, "Spirits of the Woods," by Charles Haag.....	48
December 1-December 31	Wrought Iron, by Thomas Googerty....	27
January 1-September 1	Loan Exhibition of Paintings by David Gray.....	20

LECTURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Lectures and Special Events have been held as follows:

- Jan. 18—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "French Art of the Early XIX Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Jan. 25—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "French Art of the later XIX Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Jan. 30—1:00 p. m.* Lecture on Greek Antiquities by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 1—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "How Art Helped Win the War," by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 2—* Gallery talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 3—* Gallery talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 3—* Opening of Lace Exhibition.
- Feb. 4—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Embroidery as a Fine Art," by Mrs. Charles W. Townsend, at the Society of Arts and Crafts.
- Feb. 4—* Gallery talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 5—12:00 m.* Lecture: "The Relation of the Public to the Artist," for the Twentieth Century Club.
- Feb. 5—3:30 p. m.* Gallery talks by Dudley Crafts Watson.
- Feb. 6—8:15 p. m.* Lecture: "Needlepoint and Bobbin Laces, their Origin and Development from the XVI through the XVIII Century," by Mrs. Charles W. Townsend.
- Feb. 15—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Contemporary French Art," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Feb. 22—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in Spain," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Feb. 29—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in Flanders," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Mar. 1—1:00 p. m.* Gallery talk for the Hypatia Club, by Clyde H. Burroughs.
- Mar. 14—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in the Netherlands," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- Mar. 28—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "The Renaissance in England," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- April 4—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "American Art of the Colonial Period," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- April 12—8:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: Interior Decoration Demonstration, by Ross Crane.
- April 13—3:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: Second Dramatization of Home Furnishings, by Ross Crane.

- April 13—8:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: Third Dramatization of Home Furnishings, by Ross Crane.
- April 14—3:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: "Art and Life," by Dr. W. H. MacPherson.
- April 14—8:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: "The Building of a House," by Ross Crane.
- April 15—3:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: "Planting the Home Grounds," by Ross Crane.
- April 15—8:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: "From the Eyebrows Up," by Ross Crane.
- April 17—3:00 p. m.* Better Homes Institute: "Mood in Music and Painting," by George W. Eggers, Director of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- April 18—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "American Art of the XIX Century," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- April 20—8 to 11 p. m.* Reception and Opening View of the Sixth Annual Exhibition of Selected Paintings by American Artists.
- April 25—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Contemporary American Art," by Professor Herbert Richard Cross.
- May 6—8:00 p. m.* Reception jointly with the Board of Education for the Western Arts Association.
- Sept. 1—8 to 11 p. m.* Opening View of Greek Government Exhibition.
- Oct. 20—11:00 p. m.* Gallery talk to City Art and Design Committee of the Twentieth Century Club, by Isabel Weadock.
- Oct. 25—3:00 p. m.* Lecture: "Some Aspects of the Modern English Novel," by Professor Thomas E. Rankin, for the Woman's Historical Society.
- Oct. 26—2:15 p. m.* Talk on Ancient Greece to pupils of Royal Oak High School, by Isabel Weadock.
- Oct. 28—2:00 p. m.* Gallery talk on Egyptian collection to pupils of Trenton High School, by Charlotte R. Clark.
- Nov. 3—8:00 p. m.* Opening view of Exhibition of Paintings, Tapestries and Chinese Porcelains, loaned from important collections in New York.
- Nov. 5—2:30 p. m.* Gallery talk on the Museum's collections to the Senior Class of Mount Clemens High School, by Josephine Walther.
- Nov. 6—4:00 p. m.* Lecture for Children: "Five Thousand years of Dolls," illustrated with stereopticon slides, through the courtesy of the J. L. Hudson Co.

- Nor. 8—11:00 p. m.* Lecture on Cimabue, Giotto, Fra Angelico and Botticelli, to Catholic Woman's Study Club, by Isabel Weadock.
- Nor. 17—11:00 p. m.* Gallery talk on the Loan Exhibition of Paintings, Tapestries and Chinese Porcelains, for the City Art and Design Committee of the Twentieth Century Club, by Mrs. Ethel Q. Mason.
- Nor. 19—3:00 p. m.* Lecture on Children's Books, by Thornton W. Burgess, through the courtesy of the J. L. Hudson Co.
- Dec. 12—3:30 p. m.* Gallery talk on Michigan Artists Exhibition, by Isabel Snelgrove.
- Dec. 14—2:00 p. m.* Meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Public Schools.
- Dec. 15—2:30 p. m.* Gallery talk on Michigan Artists Exhibition, to City Art and Design Committee of the Twentieth Century Club, by Ivan Swift.
- Dec. 19—2:30 p. m.* Illustrated lecture: "Christ in Art," by Mrs. Neville Walker.
- Dec. 22—2:30 p. m.* Gallery talk on Michigan Artists Exhibition to Detroit Review Club, by Ivan Swift.

The Arts Commission is grateful to the Chamber Music Society for its coöperation in arranging the following special events:

Five Saturday morning classes for children, with community singing under the direction of Thomas Whitney Surette.

Five Saturday afternoon lectures for teachers on "Music," by Mr. Surette.

Five Sunday afternoon lectures on "Music and Its Relation to Life," by Mr. Surette.

Free Sunday afternoon concert by the Flonzaley Quartette.

Free Sunday afternoon concert by the Salzedo Harp Ensemble.

Seven Sunday musical programs by members of the Society.

Under the auspices of the Archaeological Society the following lectures were given:

Jan. 28—"Roumania: Its History, Art and Monuments," by Professor Charles Upson Clark.

Feb. 25—"Little Journeys from Rome," by Professor Karl P. Harrington.

Mar. 27—"The Roman Campagna—Ancient, Medieval and Modern," by Professor Dean P. Lockwood.

April 23—"Megalithic Monuments of Great Britain," by Sir Bertram Coghill Alan Windle, F. R. S.

Nov. 11—"The Altar of Peace of Augustus," by Professor James C. Egbert.

Dec. 11—"A Recent Journey to Patmos," by Professor George R. Swain.

Under the auspices of the Recreation Commission the following were held:

Feb. 13—Program for Armenians.

Dec. 10—Lecture: "The Modern Home and How to Make it More Beautiful," by Charlotte Lewis.

Dec. 30—Program for children.

Under the auspices of the Woman's City Club selected motion pictures for children were shown on six Saturday afternoons.

The Art Teachers of the Public Schools held thirteen meetings at the Museum during the year.

During the month of June the auditorium was rented for recitals by the following: Hazel Zumstein, William Francis Firth, Henry Mathys, Detroit School of Music, Elizabeth Askin, Mary Barkume, Lillian Fleming and Flora Kneisel.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the year has been 138,647. This is approximately 1000 per month more than during the year previous, and more than 3000 per month over the year 1918. Not only has the attendance increased in numbers, but those who came for the most part came because of some specific interest, and there have been fewer casual visitors.

NEED OF MUSEUM INSTRUCTION

As pointed out last year, one of the crying needs is a department of museum instruction, to interpret the collections to the public, to

take charge of teachers and classes from the schools, and to guide them in the understanding of the treasures of the Museum, to assist the art student, designer, artisan and manufacturer by placing at their disposal the objects in the collection of use to them, and to generally devote themselves to building up in Detroit an appreciation of art and its significance in the everyday life of the people. While the present staff have taken care of this work in a measure, their duties make it impossible to do it adequately, and we would suggest that for the coming year one addition, that of an educational director, be made to the staff to make the collections serve their greatest usefulness.

THE ART LIBRARY

The report of Miss Isabel Weadock, librarian, shows that the work done by the Institute Library has not greatly changed during the past two years, but there has been a steady increase in the number who use the resources of the library. The heaviest demands come from the schools, both public and private, and there are also many calls from the newspapers, clergymen, artists and commercial houses, who wish illustrative material. During the past year 644 books, 13,024 lantern slides, and 1268 photographs were circulated, these figures not including the use made of books, slides and photographs in the library itself.

Mrs. A. G. Boynton presented to the Library a number of fine photographs and postal cards gathered during her European journeys. Prohibitive prices prevented our adding to the library shelves some of the works especially desired, but the photographs purchased have been widely used, and the coming year we look forward to the addition of other necessary works that will make the Library of practical value to the community.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The report of Miss Gertrude Gillmore, Curator of the Children's Museum, shows that this department has carried on two lines of activities: (1) it has loaned collec-

tions of illustrative material to schools and other educational organizations for classroom use; (2) it has held exhibits in the Children's Museum room. From the loan department have been borrowed by the schools 884 collections which have reached 121,000 children as objects of visual instruction. Since October these loan collections have reached more than 1000 children daily. Three exhibits have been held in the Children's Museum room. The first consisted of minerals, rocks and ores, and some of their important uses in industry, such as brick making, pottery making, coal mining, building and so forth. The interest in this exhibit was greatly increased by the fact that the brick yard and coal mine were worked out as projects by children in the Lonyo and Russell schools and then installed by them in the Children's Room. A Pilgrim exhibit was opened in November, consisting of the following groups: an Indian village of eastern Massachusetts, the coming of the Mayflower, Plymouth in 1622 and the first Thanksgiving. These groups, together with an early Colonial kitchen, were made by the children of the schools. During the past year over forty classes, consisting of 1100 children, have come with their teachers to visit these exhibits.

SIGNIFICANT NEEDS

As your Arts Commission visits other cities and becomes acquainted

with similar institutions elsewhere, we are gratified, by comparison, with our possession of a large collection, for the most part of a high standard, but we also, by the same process, become aware that a museum as significant in its possessions as ours should be beginning to departmentalize. As we outline the policy as to what direction the museum collections shall take, we find two important needs confronting us: (1) a staff of departmental curators, who will bring to their respective departments a high degree of specialized training to assume responsible charge of each division of the Museum, to recommend its purchases, to direct its activities, to give instruction in their specialized branch of knowledge, and to prepare for publication information regarding the works of art in their department; (2) we need an adequate sum each year for purchases for collections if we are to fill the gap that now exists in our respective departments. Because of their precious quality, art objects of a suitable character require a large capital outlay. If we had, however, a fund of \$100,000 annually at our disposal, we could gradually acquire significant works of art that are now lacking in our collection, and we believe that as

the importance of our museum grows, public benefactors, with a laudable civic pride, will find it worthy of their attention, and by gifts and bequests will assist in building up the Art Institute of their home city. As has already been pointed out, such an appropriation of \$100,000 is not an expense. The accessions purchased with it are a continuing asset which consistently fulfills a sphere of usefulness in the lives of the people, and at the same time these objects for the most part increase in intrinsic worth each year.

With a new building and a field of activity covering a city of over a million inhabitants, we must begin to face this problem if we are to bring the Museum of this municipality up to the standard of those in other cities.

Respectfully,

ARTS COMMISSION,

RALPH H. BOOTH, President

WILLIAM J. GRAY,

ALBERT KAHN,

HENRY G. STEVENS,

Commissioners.

CLYDE H. BURROUGHS,

Secretary and Curator.

PILGRIM TRICENTENARY EXHIBITION

In contemplation of a Pilgrim Tercentenary Exhibition under the joint auspices of the patriotic societies of Detroit and the Museum, a committee meeting was held at which were represented the following: Mrs. William Holden, representing the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Miss Helen Keep of the Colonial Dames, Mrs. J. J. Wragovitch of the Daughters of 1812, Mrs. H. B. Joy of The Colonial Governors, Rev. Joseph A. Vance of the Sons of the American Revolution, Mr. William Holliday of Colonial Wars; unofficially Miss Mabel Cady and Mrs. Arthur B. Parker. Mrs. Charles Coolidge of the Dames of the Loyal Legion, Mrs. Charles Metcalf of the Founders and Patriots, Mr. Guy B. Cady of the Society of the Mayflower, and Mrs. John Walker of the Mount Vernon Society were unable to be present but have expressed a desire to coöperate.

It was suggested that the group of early American portraits which is scheduled for exhibition from February 15 to April 1, be used as a nucleus of the proposed Tercenten-

ary Exhibition, and that the exhibit, covering a period from 1620 to about 1830, include furniture and household objects that would amply show the applied arts of the Colonial period as well as the pictorial arts.

A resolution was adopted unanimously concurring in the proposal to hold such an exhibition, and two committees were appointed: a reception committee to consist of the heads of the various societies or representatives appointed by them to take charge of the opening reception; and a committee on selection and hanging, consisting of Clyde H. Burroughs, chairman, Mrs. Henry B. Joy, Mrs. Arthur Parker, Miss Mabel Cady and Rev. Joseph A. Vance.

A resolution was also adopted that each member of the committees call a meeting of their respective societies to make a survey of available pictures, furniture, and household objects of the period and to submit a list of these to the chairman of the meeting.

It has been suggested that the reception committee wear Colonial costumes at the opening view of the exhibition, which will take place probably February 16.

